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UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.;

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[Additional Counsel Listed on Signature Page]

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT
LITIGATION

MDL No. 3084 CRB

Judge: Honorable Charles Breyer

This Document Relates to:

A.P. v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.
Case No.: 3:23-cv-04308

**DEFENDANTS AND THIRD-PARTY
PLAINTIFFS UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
AND RASIER, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY
COMPLAINT**

DEFENDANTS' THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT

Defendants and Third-Party Plaintiffs Uber Technologies, Inc. and Rasier, LLC (“Defendants” and “Third-Party Plaintiffs”) by and through their attorneys, hereby allege the following against Yovanis Escorc A Bustamante (“Third-Party Defendant”):

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. Defendant and Third-Party Plaintiff Uber Technologies, Inc. is a California corporation that is registered with and conducts business within the State of California.

2. Defendant and Third-Party Plaintiff Rasier, LLC is a California corporation that is registered with and conducts business within the State of California.

3. Based on information and belief, Third-Party Defendant Yovanis Escorc A Bustamante is an individual residing in Stuart, Florida.

4. Third-Party Plaintiffs Uber Technologies, Inc. and Rasier, LLC are Defendants in the above-entitled action wherein Plaintiff A.P. (“Plaintiff”), seeks damages for injuries allegedly caused by Uber Technologies, Inc., Rasier, LLC, and others, by way of the Plaintiff’s Original Complaint and Jury Demand, filed on August 23, 2023, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Case No. 3:23-cv-04308, Plaintiff’s Short Form Complaint, filed on April 10, 2024, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 3:23-cv-04308, and the Master Long Form Complaint filed on February 15, 2024, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, Case No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB (collectively, the “Complaint”). Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate the Complaint herein for reference, and deny any fault or liability for causing Plaintiff’s alleged injuries or damages.

5. By way of the Complaint, Plaintiff seeks damages arising from an alleged sexual assault that purportedly occurred in or around Port Saint Lucie, Florida.

6. In the event that, as a result of the underlying action, it is determined that Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Third-Party Plaintiffs, and there have been acts or omissions for which Third-Party Plaintiffs are responsible, said acts or omissions were caused by the tortious or otherwise actionable conduct of the Third-Party Defendant.

JURISDICTION

7. This Court has jurisdiction of the underlying action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1) because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and because the underlying action is between citizens of different states.

8. This Court has jurisdiction over this Third-Party Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) because the Third-Party Complaint shares a common nucleus of operative facts with the underlying action so that the Third-Party Complaint is so related to the underlying action as to form part of the same case or controversy.

DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT

9. Assignment in the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division, is appropriate because the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation assigned the *In re: Uber Technologies, Inc., Passenger Sexual Assault Litigation* to this Court for consolidated pretrial proceedings pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1407 and the underlying action was directly filed in the Northern District of California. *See* Case No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB, Dkt. 1 (“Transfer Order”), Dkt. 177 (“Stipulated Pretrial Order No. 6: Direct Filing”).

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Contractual Indemnity)

10. Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

11. Third-Party Defendant entered into multiple written agreements with Third-Party Plaintiffs. Those agreements outline the respective rights and responsibilities relating to Third-Party Defendant's use of the Uber App. Of particular relevance here, Third-Party Defendant agreed to indemnify and defend Third-Party Plaintiffs, including with respect to claims such as those asserted by Plaintiff in the Complaint against Third-Party Plaintiffs. The circumstances that give rise to Third-Party Defendant's contractual duty to indemnify and defend are the subject of Plaintiff's Complaint against Third-Party Plaintiffs.

12. On January 10, 2020, Third-Party Defendant entered into a Platform Access Agreement ("PAA") with Rasier-DC, LLC. This PAA governed Third-Party Defendant's "access to [Third-Party Plaintiff's] Platform . . . which facilitates [Third-Party Defendant's] provision of rideshare or peer-to-peer transportation service . . . to account holders seeking to access certain types of P2P Service" (**Exhibit A – Platform Access Agreement, Updated Jan. 6, 2020, p. 1**). It further granted Third-Party Defendant "a non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicensable, non-assignable license, during the term of this Agreement, to use our Platform" that was "[s]ubject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement." (*Id.* ¶ 2.1). The PAA required the Third-Party Defendant, among other things, to comply with "all laws . . . that apply to [his] provision of Rides." (*Id.* ¶ 2.2).

13. In connection with the PAA, Third-Party Defendant also entered into an Indemnity Agreement with Rasier-DC, LLC on January 10, 2020. The Indemnity Agreement provides:

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, you will indemnify, defend (at our option) and hold us and our affiliates and each of our and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, or shareholders harmless from and against all claims, liabilities, expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees and related expenses), damages, penalties, fines, social security contributions and taxes ("*Losses*") asserted by a third party and arising out of or related to your breach or alleged breach of the Agreement or this Indemnity Agreement, your provision of Rides, your access to our Platform or your interaction with any third party.

(**Exhibit B—Indemnity Agreement, Updated Jan. 6, 2020, ¶ 1.1**).

1 14. Both the PAA and the Indemnity Agreement provide that the law that governs the
2 agreements is the law of the state where Third-Party Defendant resided when he accepted the
3 agreements. (Ex. A, ¶ 12.7, Ex. B., ¶ 6). Based on information and belief, Third-Party Defendant
4 resided in Florida.

5 15. Plaintiff's Complaint alleges, among other things, conduct entitling Plaintiff to
6 compensatory damages against Third-Party Plaintiffs. Specifically, Plaintiff's Complaint alleges that
7 on or about November 11, 2020, while Third-Party Defendant was providing her a ride using the Uber
8 App, Third-Party Defendant "grab[bed] Plaintiff's hair and waist to pull her close to him to kiss
9 Plaintiff," attempted to "pry" her legs open "to fondle and grope her vaginal area," and "fondle[d] and
10 grope[d] Plaintiff's breast." (Pl.'s Original Compl. and Jury Demand, filed on August 23, 2023,
11 United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Case No. 3:23-cv-04308-CRB,
12 ¶¶66-72).

13
14 16. The damages alleged by Plaintiff arise out of or relate to Third-Party Defendant's
15 alleged tortious or otherwise actionable conduct, which arises out of or relates to his breach of the PAA
16 and the Indemnity Agreement with Third-Party Plaintiffs, provision of rides, access to Third-Party
17 Plaintiffs' platform, and interaction with a third-party.

18
19 17. Third-Party Defendant's alleged tortious or otherwise actionable conduct is therefore
20 covered by the PAA and the Indemnity Agreement he entered into with Third-Party Plaintiffs and gives
21 rise to Third-Party Defendant's contractual duty to indemnify and defend.

22 18. Third-Party Plaintiffs deny liability for the events and occurrences described in
23 Plaintiff's Complaint.

24 19. Third-Party Defendant's alleged tortious or otherwise actionable conduct was the direct
25 and proximate cause of the damages alleged by Plaintiff.
26
27
28

1 20. As a result, if Third-Party Plaintiffs are found in some manner liable to Plaintiff in this
2 action under any theory of recovery, Third-Party Plaintiffs allege that their liability would be based
3 solely upon a derivative form of liability not resulting from their conduct and, therefore, are entitled to
4 complete indemnity from Third-Party Defendant.

5 21. By reason of the foregoing, Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to be fully defended and
6 indemnified by Third-Party Defendant for any amounts that may in good faith be paid by way of
7 compromise, settlement, or judgment. Additionally, Third-Party Plaintiffs are entitled to all costs,
8 expenses, and attorneys' fees that Third-Party Plaintiffs incurred in the defense of the underlying action
9 brought by Plaintiff and the prosecution of this Third-Party Complaint.
10

11 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **(Contribution)¹**

13 22. Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate herein each allegation set forth above.

14 23. If Plaintiff has been injured or damaged as alleged in the Complaint, any such injuries
15 or damages were directly and proximately caused and contributed to by the negligent or otherwise
16 tortious conduct of Third-Party Defendant, such that Third-Party Defendant is a tortfeasor, originally
17 liable to Plaintiff.
18

19 24. The fault, acts, or omissions of Third-Party Plaintiffs, if any, must be compared with
20 the fault, acts, or omissions of Third-Party Defendant or any other persons or parties.

21 25. Under the foregoing circumstances, any award of damages to Plaintiff pursuant to her
22 claims in the Complaint must be apportioned to, and be paid by, Third-Party Defendant according to
23 the relative degree of fault of Third-Party Defendant.
24

25
26 ¹ Third-Party Plaintiffs recognize that under Florida law a party cannot bring a contribution claim
27 through a third-party complaint when the underlying negligence action is still pending. Third-Party
28 Plaintiffs plead contribution here only in the event that the Court determines a different state's law
governs. Additionally, Third-Party Plaintiffs reserve their right to plead the fault of Third-Party
Defendant as an affirmative defense to Plaintiff's Complaint.

1 26. As a result, if Third-Party Plaintiffs are held liable to Plaintiff on any of the allegations
2 made in the Complaint, Third-Party Defendant, to the extent of Third-Party Defendant's fault, is
3 obligated to reimburse and will be liable to Third-Party Plaintiffs for any liabilities so assessed by way
4 of contribution. Accordingly, Third-Party Plaintiffs assert herein their rights to such
5 contribution. Specifically, Third-Party Plaintiffs assert that Third-Party Defendant is obligated to pay
6 its pro rata share of any judgment or settlement herein awarded in direct proportion to the amount of
7 fault of the Third-Party Defendant.
8

9 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 **(Declaratory Relief)**

11 27. Third-Party Plaintiffs incorporate herein each allegation set forth above.

12 28. Without in any way acknowledging any liability to Plaintiff, Third-Party Plaintiffs
13 allege that, if Third-Party Plaintiffs are ultimately held liable in this action, such liability will be the
14 direct and proximate result of the negligent or otherwise actionable conduct of Third-Party
15 Defendant. As a result, Third-Party Plaintiffs allege that Third-Party Defendant is obligated to fully or
16 partially indemnify Third-Party Plaintiffs for the sums that they may be compelled to pay as a result of
17 any damages, judgments, or other awards against Third-Party Plaintiffs in this action, if any, and to pay
18 Third-Party Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees and costs incurred in defending against the claims of Plaintiff in
19 this action and prosecuting the claims asserted by way of the Third-Party Complaint.
20

21 29. Third-Party Plaintiffs desire a judicial determination of the respective rights and duties
22 of Third-Party Plaintiffs and Third-Party Defendant with respect to the damages claimed in Plaintiff's
23 Complaint. In particular, Third-Party Plaintiffs desire a declaration of the respective liabilities of
24 Third-Party Plaintiffs and Third-Party Defendant for such damages, if any, and a declaration of Third-
25 Party Defendant's responsibilities to indemnify or provide contribution to Third-Party Plaintiffs and to
26 hold them harmless from any sums that they may be compelled to pay, and for the attorneys' fees and
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1 costs Third-Party Plaintiffs have already incurred and will incur in defending against Plaintiff's claims
2 and prosecuting the claims asserted by way of the Third-Party Complaint.

3 30. Such a declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time to enable Third-Party
4 Plaintiffs to ascertain their rights and duties with respect to the defense of this action and the payment
5 of any damages, judgment, or other awards that may be recovered against them by
6 Plaintiff. Furthermore, the claims of Plaintiff and the claims of Third-Party Plaintiffs arise out of the
7 same transaction and occurrence, and a determination of both in one proceeding is necessary and
8 appropriate to avoid the multiplicity of actions that would result if Third-Party Plaintiffs are required
9 to defend against the claims of Plaintiff in the Complaint and then bring a subsequent action against
10 Third-Party Defendant for indemnification and contribution of sums that Third-Party Plaintiffs may be
11 compelled to pay as a result of any damages, judgments, or other awards recovered by Plaintiff against
12 Third-Party Plaintiffs, if any.
13

14 **PRAYER**

15 Wherefore, Third-Party Plaintiffs respectfully pray for the following judgment:
16

17 1. For judgment against Third-Party Defendant on the First Cause of Action, awarding
18 Third-Party Plaintiffs total contractual indemnity for any amounts which may in good faith be paid by
19 Third-Party Plaintiffs to Plaintiff by way of compromise, settlement, or judgment;

20 2. For judgment against Third-Party Defendant on the Second Cause of Action, in the form
21 of contribution based on Third-Party Defendant's proportionate share of fault on any sums adjudged
22 against Third-Party Plaintiffs, if any, in favor of Plaintiff herein;
23

24 3. For a judicial determination on the Third Cause of Action of the responsibilities of
25 Third-Party Defendant to fully or partially indemnify or provide contribution to Third-Party Plaintiffs
26 and hold Third-Party Plaintiffs harmless from any damages, judgment, or other awards that may be
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1 recovered against Third-Party Plaintiffs by Plaintiff on the Complaint pursuant to principles of
2 indemnity or contribution;

3 4. For any other equitable decree or order required to apportion liability and damages, and
4 ensure Third-Party Defendant reimburses Third-Party Plaintiffs for any payments they make to Plaintiff
5 in excess of Third-Party Plaintiffs' proportionate share of fault, if any;

6 5. That Third-Party Plaintiffs be awarded their attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this
7 action to the extent permitted by law; and
8

9 6. For any and such further relief as the Court may determine is just and proper.

10 DATED: December 18, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

11 **SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.**

12 By: /s/ Maria Salcedo

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